

Box

NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.

17-1.6-chome, Ginza, Chuo-ku
Tokyo, Japan

Katsuji Kawamata
Chairman

April 4, 1983

Prime Minister
The tone of the
letter is a good deal
warmer and more

hopeful.

FERB

14.4.

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The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister, First Lord of
the Treasury and Minister for
the Civil Service
10 Downing Street
London SW1
U.K.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

I have gratefully received your kind letter of 18 March. I would first like to express my deep appreciation to you for your thoughtful arrangement which had enabled our Mr. Kawaii and his team during their recent stay in London to have an opportunity to meet with your leasing experts and receive detailed explanation from them.

With the capital allowances, and also grants and financial assistance available to companies investing in the U.K., I now fully understand that the leasing route, as you indicated, contributes favourably in reducing our investment capital; and, while the arrangement remains on commercial terms, the leasing charges would also be reduced to relatively small amount.

Also, with the price of crude oil recently drifting downwards, the international economic situation, as you suggest, might perhaps recover to regain somewhat brighter prospect.

Further, I fully appreciate your statement with reference to unemployment in the U.K.; that it is the strong desire of the British people to locally produce goods sold in the U.K., thereby creating job opportunity in your country.

Personally, I do not feel it right to keep the issue open for too long a period. I would, however, be most grateful if you would kindly understand our position that we are obliged to take into our account certain points other than the leasing question as well. Please, therefore, understand that I am unable to convey to you our conclusion in this letter.

As you are well aware, this project calls for Nissan's substantial commitment long into its future, and we would therefore like to discuss this issue further internally. We would certainly inform you as soon as we decide one way or the other.

NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.

Mrs. Thatcher,

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April 4, 1983

Once again, please accept my sincere appreciation for all the courtesy and assistance you have extended our Mr. Kawaii and his team.

With my best personal wishes,

Respectfully yours,

Katsuji Kawamata
Katsuji Kawamata

KK/tfy/ki



FILE

RM
Japan

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

14 April, 1983

I am enclosing for the information of those concerned in our Embassy in Tokyo and of the other recipients of this letter, a copy of a letter dated 4 April which the Prime Minister has received today from the Chairman of the Nissan Motor Company. I should be grateful if recipients of this letter could treat this document in the same way as previous documents in the series and in particular do not convey to Nissan they have seen this correspondence.

I am copying this letter and the enclosure to John Kew (Treasury) and Jonathan Spencer (Department of Industry).

E. R. BUTLER

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



BRITISH EMBASSY,
TOKYO.

5 April 1983

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON

Dear Robin,

NISSAN

We handed to Nissan on 31 March the Prime Minister's letter of 18 March to Mr Kawamata (which had reached us that morning). You may by now have seen a copy of John Whitehead's teleletter of the same date to Robin Mountfield in the Department of Industry reporting his conversation with Okuma, Vice President of Nissan at which the letter was passed on.

I now enclose a further sealed letter from Mr Kawamata replying to the Prime Minister, delivered here yesterday. We should be grateful if you could in due course give us sight of a copy which we would of course protect in accordance with the instructions in your letter of 18 March to John Holmes.

Yours ever,

David

D J Wright
Economic Counsellor

cc: M Elliott Esq, FED, FCO
R Mountfield Esq, Vehicles Division, DOI